

Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLETuesday September 7, 1976CI NIDC 76-210C

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Tuesday, September 7, 1976
[redacted] The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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LEBANON: Alliance Rumored

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[] The announcement this weekend that Syrian President Asad, King Husayn, and Lebanese president-elect Sarkis will meet in Damascus on September 27--shortly after Sarkis is scheduled to take office--has led to broad speculation in Beirut that the three leaders plan to establish some form of alliance. Asad's invitation to Lebanese Christian leaders and Muslims sympathetic to Syria to visit Damascus during the coming week has reinforced the notion that such an agreement is in the offing.

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[] We doubt that Asad has done much more than raise the idea of a closer alliance in his recent meetings with Sarkis and the King or that Asad sees an alliance as the best way to end the Lebanese conflict--as some Lebanese officials are suggesting. The visit of Lebanese leaders to Damascus is no doubt intended to solve the more immediate problem of laying the groundwork for Sarkis' take-over from President Franjiah on September 23.

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[] Asad has been talking to Husayn for some time, however, about ways to develop their economic and military cooperation into a loose confederation. He might now see Lebanon's inclusion as a way of justifying Syria's presence in Lebanon and ultimately of strengthening Syria's position against Israel. Husayn referred obliquely to this possibility early this summer when he spoke of "building a new reality" with Syria and linked this to the "national role" Syria is playing in Lebanon.

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[REDACTED] Our evidence does not confirm press accounts of a major escalation of the fighting in Lebanon over the weekend. Although the Christians are making much of their latest efforts to recapture Christian towns in the Mount Lebanon area, they have made no new gains on the ground and seem only to have intensified their artillery fire in the area.

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[REDACTED] Limited clashes continued yesterday in the north near Tripoli and in the southern outskirts of Beirut; Syrian forces based in Jazzin continued to shell Palestinian headquarters in the nearby village of Rum. None of the activity over the weekend suggests any of the combatants has launched a major new offensive.

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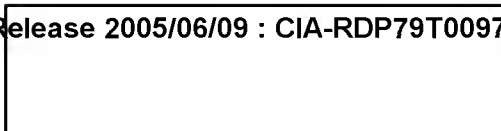
[REDACTED] Arab League representatives, who convened in Cairo on Saturday, decided to postpone the Arab summit until the third week of October. They probably want to give president-elect Sarkis time to form his new government before participating in the meeting and to give League officials in Beirut more time to try to implement the cease-fire plan before reporting to the Arab heads of state. [REDACTED]

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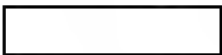
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SOUTHERN AFRICA: Summit Meeting


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 //Five southern African presidents and the leaders of Rhodesian nationalist groups are meeting in Dar es Salaam, apparently to seek new ways to bring about political unity among the squabbling nationalists and also to improve their military potential.//

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 //Angolan President Neto and Sam Nujoma, leader of the South-West Africa People's Organization, are also participating in the Dar es Salaam meetings, indicating that Namibia is an important subject of the discussions. Past meetings have included only Nyerere, Machel, Zambian President Kaunda, and Botswanan President Khama and have focused almost exclusively on Rhodesia.//

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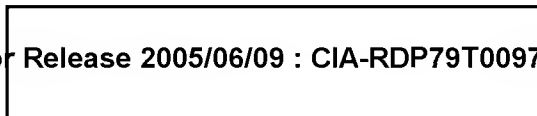
EGYPT-LIBYA: Military Situation Report

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[redacted] Egyptian officials have not yet commented on President Qadhafi's relatively conciliatory speech last week, in which he tried to portray himself as the reasonable, peace-seeking party in the dispute. Egypt's senior representative in Tripoli privately characterized the speech as a clever move that, in effect, had left Egypt in a position of being "damned if it does, and damned if it does not" attack Libya.

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[redacted] Qadhafi seems to think that an outwardly "reasonable" approach is his best course. To that end he repeated in an interview published over the weekend a promise that in the interests of Arab unity he would not use Libyan forces even to repel an Egyptian attack.

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[redacted] Qadhafi also offered to meet with President Sadat in a neutral country to resolve their differences without mediators. In an apparent effort to put Sadat on the spot, Qadhafi blamed Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi and Egyptian and US intelligence for fomenting tensions between the two countries, implying that Sadat has had little control over events. [redacted]

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KOREA: Agreement Reached

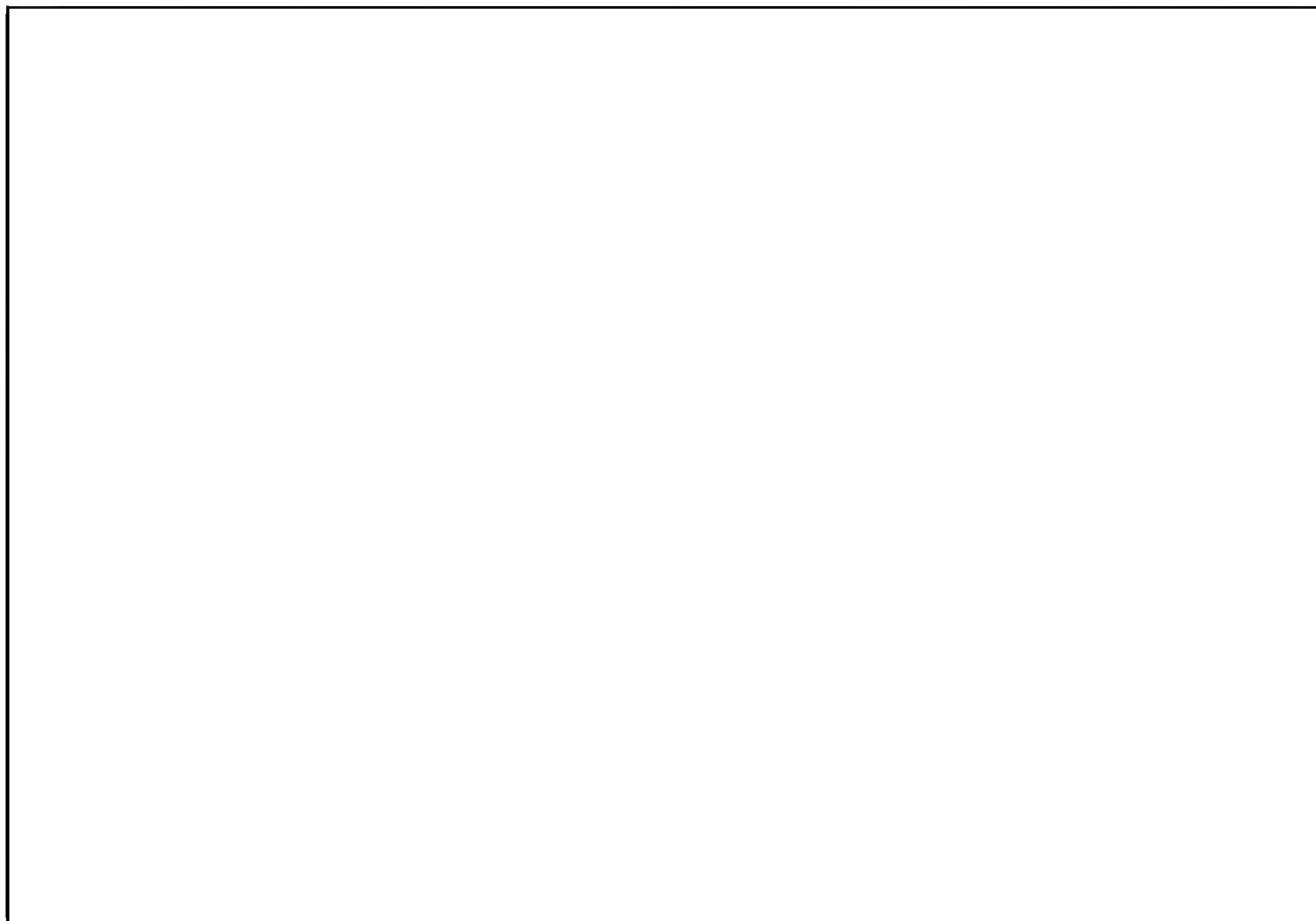
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[REDACTED] //Agreement has been reached between North Korea and the United Nations Command regarding the separation of military forces in the Joint Security Area at Panmunjom. Minor differences were resolved when the Koreans accepted a UN Command counterproposal on passage of nonmilitary personnel and vehicles across the Military Demarcation Line.//

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[REDACTED] //Pyongyang has approached these negotiations seriously and was anxious to see them succeed. The North Koreans hope the agreement will help refurbish their image in the wake of the August 18 Panmunjom incident.//

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CYPRUS: Election Returns

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[] A three-party alliance supporting President Makarios and his handling of the Cyprus issue scored a decisive victory over former House of Representatives president Glafkos Clerides' party in the parliamentary election on Sunday.

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[] According to unofficial results, the pro-Makarios alliance composed of the Communists, the Socialists, and the centrist Democratic Front won 69.5 percent of the vote and 34 of 35 seats. The Democratic Front--which acted as Makarios' surrogate--ran first in the popular vote and won all 21 seats it contested. It will have control of the House. The Communists ran second in the popular vote and won all 9 seats they contested; the Socialists won 4 of 6 seats. Greek Cypriot negotiator Tassos Papadopoulos, who ran as an independent and is likely to be the next House president, won the remaining seat with the support of the pro-Makarios parties.

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[] Clerides' center-right Democratic Rally made a respectable showing. It won 24.1 percent of the popular vote but failed to gain any seats because of the winner-take-all electoral system.

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CYPRUS-LIBYA: Arab Hijackers

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[] The three hijackers who seized a KLM airliner over the weekend and later surrendered the plane in Cyprus are having difficulty getting to a destination where they will be allowed to stay.

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[] the hijackers agreed to release the passengers and crew on the condition that they be given safe conduct out of Cyprus. At least two of the hijackers had to return to Cyprus yesterday, however, when an airline pilot in Athens refused to take them aboard his flight to Iraq.

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[] We have not yet been able to establish the affiliation of the hijackers, all of whom apparently were Arabs. Officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has officially condemned the hijacking, suggested yesterday that the incident was planned by Wadi Haddad.

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